What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for operating a drive unit (1), in particular in a vehicle, in which a setpoint is specified for at least one output variable of the drive unit (1),
wherein a setpoint for an operating variable of the drive unit (1) is additionally specified in at least one operating state of the drive unit (1), the at least one output variable of the drive unit (1) being specified in this operating state regardless of its setpoint, in the sense of approximating an actual value for the operating variable to the setpoint for the operating variable.

2. The method as recited in Claim 1,
wherein a torque or a power of the drive unit (1) is selected as the output variable.

3. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims,
wherein a speed of an engine of the drive unit (1) is selected as the operating variable.

4. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims,
wherein the at least one operating state is selected as a start-up operating state of the drive unit (1).

5. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims,
wherein the setpoint for the at least one output variable is specified by a first control (5) or a first function (15), and the setpoint for the operating variable is specified by the same control (5) or function (15) or a second control (10) or second function and is relayed to a third control (20) for setting the at least one output variable of the drive unit (1), and the third control (20) modifies this setpoint for the at least one output variable in the sense of approximating the actual value of the operating variable to the setpoint of the

operating variable starting from the setpoint for the at least one output variable of the drive unit (1).

6. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the at least one output variable of the drive unit (1) is specified by a regulator (25) in the sense of approximating the actual value for the operating variable to the setpoint for the operating variable.

7. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the drive unit (1) is operated with an internal combustion engine.

8. The method as recited in Claim 7,
wherein a first output variable of the drive unit (1) is specified for an ignition path (30) of the internal combustion engine and a second output variable of the drive unit (1) is specified for an air path (35) of the internal combustion engine.

9. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the at least one operating state is selected to be different from an idling operating state.

10. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the setpoint for the at least one output variable is implemented without modification after the end of the at least one operating state.

11. A device for operating a drive unit (1), in particular in a vehicle, having means (5, 10, 15) for specifying a setpoint for at least one output variable of the drive unit (1),
wherein a first specification unit (5) is provided, which additionally specifies a setpoint for an operating variable of the drive unit (1) in at least one operating state of the drive unit (1), a second specification unit

(25) being provided, which in this operating state specifies the at least one output variable of the drive unit (1) regardless of its setpoint, in the sense of approximating an actual value for the operating variable to the setpoint for the operating variable.